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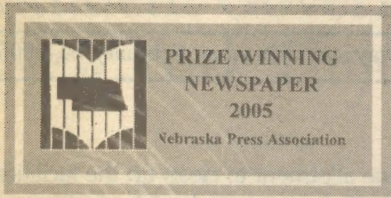
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER SINCE 1913

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February 14, 2006



Milliken's speech on podcast

ANGI SADA
NEWS EDITOR

Keeping up with technology, University of Nebraska President James B. Milliken's State of the University address is available via podcast for the first time this year.

Milliken's recorded speech was made available to listeners at midnight Feb. 9. The speech was also available in a downloadable PDF document.

Milliken did not formally deliver the speech, but held a telephone conference with a small press contingency to discuss the address.

Milliken read from a short prepared speech and fielded questions, including some regarding the switch in format.

In the past, the address was given at one of the four campuses in the system. With the switch to podcasting, Milliken is hoping to reach more students and create a wider audience. However, he is realistic.

"I don't expect this to be on any student's top 10," he said.

Milliken pointed out the importance of recruiting quality faculty for NU classrooms and further defined his commitment to the seven planks of the university's Strategic Framework.

He stressed the importance of reaching out to the increasing numbers of Latino students in Nebraska.

James B. Milliken



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Saving Faces: Art that heals

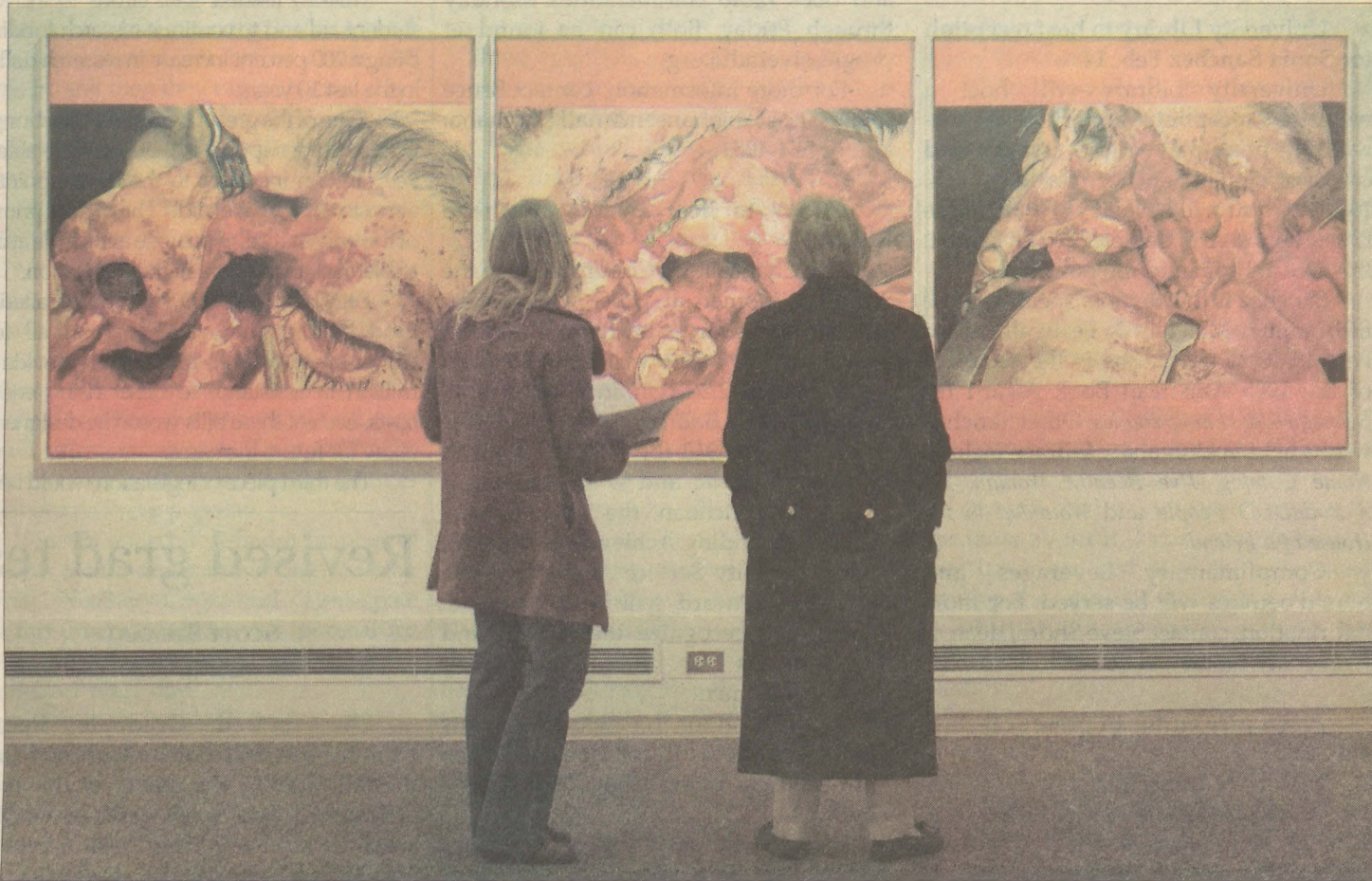


photo by Lucas Munderloh

The UNO Art Gallery is showcasing "Saving Faces," an exhibit depicting facial disfigurements until Feb. 24. On Feb. 16 at 7:00 p.m., artist Mark Gilbert will speak the UNO Art Gallery in the Weber Fine Arts Building.

Concerned students organize on behalf of professor

SCOTT STEWART
SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS
MANAGER

Discontented students are using a combination of technology and traditional techniques to organize

themselves in support of professor Pamela Owens, who is at the center of a conflict over whether to retain her at the university.

"It simply began out of the feeling that something needed to be done," political

science major Cody Farrens said. "We didn't feel that she was getting a fair shake, and wanted to make sure that the administration knew that students were paying attention to what was going on."

Owens, a professor in the religion and philosophy department, recently learned that she may not be allowed to continue her work for tenure at the university, a move that effectively terminates her employment

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Survey says: Most grads glad with UNO

CRYSTAL R. REID
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nearly 90 percent of graduates in 2004-05 are satisfied with their knowledge and skills learned from their degree programs at UNO, according to a recent study.

Late last month, the Office of Institutional Research and Student Enrollment Services released a "Degree Graduates Outcomes Survey" for the 2004-05 academic year, and the results show that students are generally satisfied with their academic experiences at the university.

More than 80 percent of students surveyed were most confident with their

ability to speak in public settings, but only 59.3 percent were satisfied with their exposure to the arts.

Advising took a hit, too, with only 59.3 percent of students saying they were satisfied with the advising received in their first two years at the school. But 86.7 percent were satisfied with the academic preparation for a profession or career.

More than 1,560 surveys were administered, and 1,491 students responded.

The survey separated students into demographics, like race, gender, transfer, traditional and non-traditional students.

Questions asked included open-

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Alumni Center grand opening



Martha Hellingso finds her husband's name tag at the Alumni Center grand opening last Thursday.

photo by Caelan Miller

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News you can use

COMPILED BY KIMBERLY BRYANT
LINE COPY EDITOR

University Library to host reception for Sonia Sanchez Feb. 14

University Library will host a welcome reception honoring award-winning poet, playwright, essayist and educator Sonia Sanchez Tuesday, Feb. 14. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at the Loves Jazz & Arts Center, 2510 N. 24th St. It is free and open to the public.

Sanchez is the keynote speaker at the fifth annual Malcolm X Festival, set for Feb. 15-16 at UNO. She is the recipient of the 1985 American Book Award for *Homegirls & Handgrenades*. Other Sanchez works held in University Library include *Home Coming*, *I've Been A Woman*, *We A BaddDDD People* and *Wounded in the House of a Friend*.

Complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served. For more information, contact Steve Shorb, dean of University Library, at 554-2640.

Progressive editor to present lecture Feb. 23

Matthew Rothschild, editor of *The Progressive*, will speak at UNO Thursday, Feb. 23. His lecture is titled "The Case for Impeachment." The event, which is free and open to the public, will begin at 7 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Dodge Room A.

During his visit to campus, Rothschild also will meet with classes from communication and political science.

Rothschild started work at *The Progressive* in 1983, where he has worked in several different positions, first as associate editor, then managing editor, and, since 1994, as editor.

On the magazine's Web site, progressive.org, Rothschild keeps a running tally of civil liberties infringements in his "McCarthyism

Watch." He also hosts *Progressive Radio*, a syndicated weekly half-hour program, and does radio commentaries Monday through Friday. Both can be found at progressiveradio.org.

For more information, contact Bruce Johansen at bjohansen@mail.unomaha.edu or 554-4851.

CCSW to host awards luncheon March 9

The Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women at UNO will host its 20th annual awards luncheon Thursday, March 9. The event will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Milo Bail Student Center Ballroom.

Tickets are \$12 for staff, faculty and the general public, and \$9 for students.

At the luncheon, the 2006 winners of the Outstanding Achievement Award, the Community Service Award and the Scholarship Award will be announced. The awards recognize individuals and organizations for their outstanding service to women.

A reception for the award recipients will be held prior to the luncheon from 11 to 11:30 a.m. in the MBSC Chancellor's Room.

The CCSW serves as an advisory to the chancellor and other university administrators on issues that relate to women faculty, staff and students. The commission's goal is to provide a forum for women at UNO in conjunction with the organization's core themes of A, B, C — Awareness of women's issues, Balance in women's lives, and the Community and women's roles.

Luncheon tickets are on sale in the Milo Bail Student Center Business Office. Tickets also can be purchased by phone at 554-2979 or by e-mail to ghotaling@mail.unomaha.edu.

For more information about the luncheon, contact Marvel Maring at 554-2992 or mmaring@mail.unomaha.edu.

From MILLIKEN: Page 1

Milliken also discussed the three legislative bills going to the Unicameral this year that will directly affect day-to-day operations on all four campuses.

The three bills discuss everything from environmental clean up to rising energy costs.

Milliken lauded state efforts to increase student aid and to continue research funding, citing a 200 percent increase in research dollars in the last 10 years.

"One of the great positives of this stronger level of state support is that we were able to keep tuition increases to the lowest point in almost a decade," he said. "The highest priority of the university is to provide affordable access to Nebraskans to get a higher education."

Legislative bill 603 has been drafted to fund building renovations across all four campuses. Another bill would provide \$6 million in assistance to offset rising energy costs. Each of these bills would be designed to allow for future increases.

The third piece of legislation would be for

a one-time allotment to clean up the facilities at Mead. The waste at the Mead site was disposed of properly at the time of its disposal, but no longer meets Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Milliken said that efforts to maintain and strengthen existing ties with the private sector, as well as establishing new arrangements, will be vital to the economic development of the state of Nebraska.

Milliken also laid out plans for the next year. Citing a desire to increase enrollment throughout the NU system, he said that the university will strive to increase the numbers of under represented minority enrollment.

There will also be efforts to promote entrepreneurial growth through education, Milliken said.

"That's a strategy for the growth of Nebraska."

The podcast can be downloaded at nebraska.edu/sotu2006.aspx.

Revised grad test launch delayed

SCOTT STEWART

SENIOR STAFF WRITER / SYSTEMS MANAGER

The revised Graduate Record Examination will not be launched until the fall of 2007, the maker of the exam announced last week after a meeting with an advisory board last weekend. The launch was previously set for this October.

"The delay will better serve test takers and graduate institutions as ETS transitions from the current computer- and paper-based forms of the test to the new Internet-based version," according to a press release from Educational Testing Services, the exam's manufacturer.

"It is really the issue of access," said Marion Fortin-Wavra, director of the UNO Testing Center. "They are going to try to get increased seating on campuses."

The exam is currently offered on a continuous basis at the UNO Testing Center, with students making appointments to use one of four computer workstations located in

the center. Students are even able to do walk-in test administration, although Fortin-Wavra encourages making appointments.

"Until the fall of 2007, we will continue to administer the exam here like we always have," Fortin-Wavra said.

However, once ETS completes the transition to an Internet-based exam, the exam will be given in a group environment, like the company's notorious SAT, on regularly scheduled administration dates. The concern is that many campuses will not have the resources to accommodate this new format and students will have difficulty scheduling the exam.

"They will be administering it at specialized times in computer labs,"

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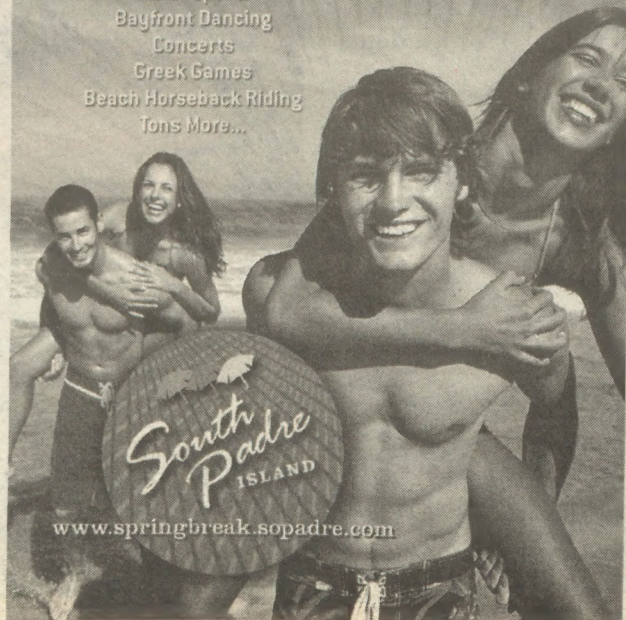
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Editor

Student Government wants to bring New York Times into classrooms

CHRIS LARSON
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

UNO's Student Government is working on a project that would bring the *New York Times* into classrooms at no cost to the professors or students.

Alex Williams, former Legislative and Public Relations representative for Student Government, was initially contacted by Jody Neathery-Castro, of the political science department, about the project.

"One of the hallmarks of a democracy is an active and free press," Neathery-Castro said. "As a political scientist, I always encourage students to keep up with current events so they can be informed citizens."

This is not a new concept to UNO's campus. In the past, English classes have used the *Times* as their text, and the political science department had a program called "Keeping Up With the *Times*," Williams said.

This was a project that was being researched last fall, said Aaron Gilliland, speaker of the Student Senate. They met with a *Times* representative about doing a booster program, which would allow for the paper to come in free for a trial period to evaluate the interest by students and faculty.

If it all works out, the trial period will begin at the start of the fall 2006 semester, Williams said.

"It is another way to get Student Governments' name out there," Williams said. "We want to promote readership on campus."

They need a way to judge how successful the trial period is, Williams said. Each day a certain number of papers will come in, and then they can go back and see how many were picked up. He also said another option would be online surveys to get student feedback.

Although he is no longer a member of Student Government, Williams said he will still help Steve Massara, student body president/regent with projects like this one.

Neathery-Castro was involved with the American Democracy Project on campus, and was able to purchase the *Times* for a few classes where the professors said they would use them as text. The extra copies were put into student and faculty lounges and it became very popular.

"Since it ended, I've had a number of students, faculty and staff ask if we can bring it back," Neathery-Castro said. "I anticipate that this program will be very popular for those who get into the habit of reading the newspaper every day."

From **GRAD TEST**: Page 2

Fortin-Wavra said. "I recommend that students be forewarned about this."

Fortin-Wavra went on to say that there was also concern over "lay people" administering the exam rather than trained administrators. The old release date would not have allowed for sufficient time to train new administrators.

"There is a rigid set of functions that

we perform to maintain test integrity," Fortin-Wavra said.

Overall the response to the move is positive, citing that the delay will allow more time for administrators and test-takers to prepare for changes.

"I think this delay will help greatly," Fortin-Wavra said. "I think the delay will benefit the students."

From **OWENS**: Page 1

at UNO.

Farrens and some of his friends organized a Facebook.com group and created a Web site, pamelajejanowens.org, to disseminate information.

Facebook.com is an online community that establishes campus social networks to allow students and even faculty to interact with one another.

The Facebook group had 69 members as of Friday. Of course, not all of these members are active participants in group activities, such as the sit-in protest that occurred Jan. 25.

"The whole sit-in was organized in less than three days," Farrens said. "We knew that the final decision was going to be made soon, so we had to act quickly if we wanted our voices to be heard."

Farrens, a junior, is encouraging students through Facebook and the Web site to write letters and e-mails in support of Owens to College of Arts and Sciences Dean Shelton Hendricks and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs John Christensen.

In the Facebook group, Farrens also suggests sending a copy of e-mails to Owens "since several student's letters have mysteriously not been getting through," an accusation students brought up during the sit-in protest.

Owens declined the opportunity

to comment on any of the events surrounding her reappointment, citing her respect for those working on her behalf and a desire not to aggravate the situation.

"I love my job," Owens said. "I am amazed at the caliber of students in Omaha. I am proud of our students."

The student group currently does not have any plans in the works, according to Farrens. They are waiting for further developments before deciding how to move forward.

"The reason I got involved is because I have known Dr. Owens for the past year or so," Farrens said. "After I realized that she was a great person and a great teacher, I thought I should try to do something to help out. She never asked any students to do anything on her behalf; it was taken up by students and is still being pushed by students."

Farrens went on to say that he hopes the students are making a difference.

"Obviously you can't know what the administration is thinking," Farrens said. "But we have raised the awareness on campus and have informed a lot of students about it. I guess my feeling is that if we can just raise the awareness among the student body and we can point that out to those making the decisions, then we're on the right path."

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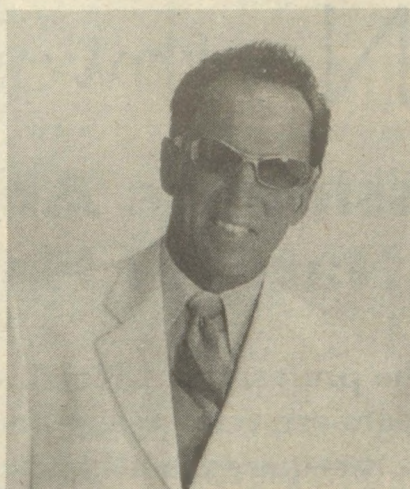
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For more information contact Erin, SPO Advisor, at 554-2711

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Sexy Valentine's tips: After-dinner ideas for an exciting dessert with your special someone

COMMENTARY BY MICHAEL MCMANUS
ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT/FEATURES EDITOR

Valentine's Day card received. Check. Dinner consumed. Check.

You're now left confused and unaware of what to do now that the night is coming to a close. Check.

Often times we are put in this situation when we ask ourselves, "What happens now?" The problem is the question is so often asked, but never actually answered or acted upon.

Let's face it, Valentine's Day only comes once a year, and frankly, if you are in a relationship, it takes a lot more than a box of chocolates and a rose to make your night memorable. So what is a confused Valentine to do? Perhaps the question that should be asked isn't what to do, but instead what can we use, and how should we use it?

We're all adults here, so let's get down to the nitty gritty: It's about 10 p.m. and you just put a little Marvin Gaye "Let's Get It On" in the CD player. You dim the lights and are ready to do what Marvin so elegantly sings. However, you decide to change things up a bit. Here are some ideas for lovers on Valentine's Day:

1. Start the night off with a romantic bath. How many times have you scrubbed down your lover? You may be surprised at how romantic/erotic this can be. Don't get too carried away though, the night has only begun!

2. Spread rose petals all over the bed. Sure, this tactic may seem cheesy, but it still works. Throw in dozens of candles and it's a sight that he/she is sure to appreciate.

3. Purchase scented massage oils. Everyone loves a good massage, and who

doesn't like getting all oiled up before an exciting night? Throw the massage oil together with the candles, and watch your significant other glisten throughout the night.

4. Make things edible. There is a huge market for edible lotions, creams and lubricants. Try some "Body Butter," or even some of Jessica Simpson's new line of "Dessert Treats."

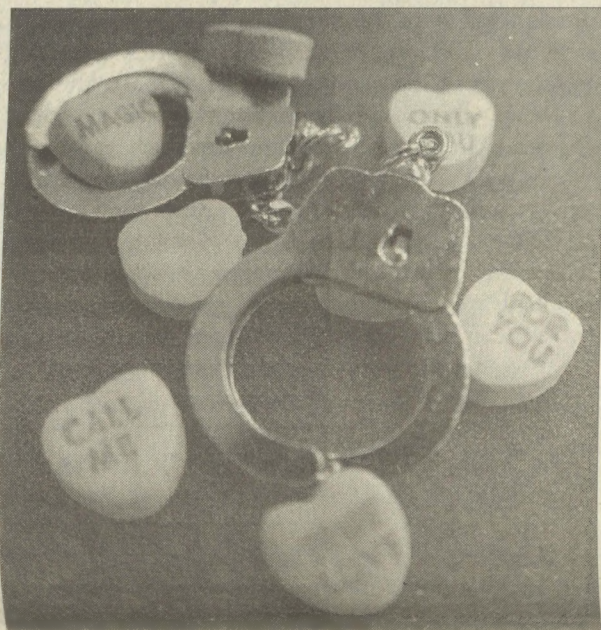


photo illustration by Michelle Bishop

5. Get playful. Couples are sometimes embarrassed to talk about using sex toys, but what's there to be ashamed of? Those who are not ashamed are the ones having an amazing time, while the other couples are still trying to figure out what they are doing wrong.

6. Dress the part. It's Valentine's Day! It's going to take a lot more than your discolored boxers and your mismatching bra and panties to make this night memorable. Guys try going the silk route, or if you really want to get skimpy, tear out the thong. Girls, play it sexy, there are so

many options! Try the stiletto and corset option for a sure win.

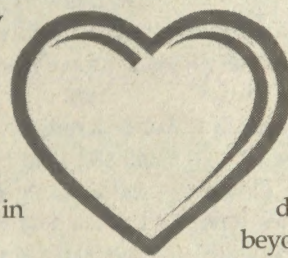
7. Make the night last. You can be intimate any night, so make this particular night unlike any other. How can this be done? Try moving throughout the house; Who said you had to stay in one place?

8. Tell them how much you care for them. Showing them in the physical form is never enough. Remind them throughout the night with verbal cues and reminders.

9. Get clean together. So if you followed any of the above tips, there is no denying the fact that a cleanup is in order. Grab your partner and work your way to

the shower. Who knows, the shower may only be the beginning to another round of Valentine's Day loving.

10. Continue the love well into the morning. Not the sexual love, but the loving vibe. Make your Valentine breakfast, or take them for a romantic walk in the park. You need to show your date that your feelings for them go beyond Valentine's Day night.



Of course before acting out any of these tips it's important to consider where you are in your relationship. If you've only been dating a week, there is no shame in sticking with a box of chocolates and a dinner.

So there you go. Dim the lights, turn up the music and remember these tips for a Valentine's Day to remember. *Just remember to always, always play it safe.*

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Firebirds might be a miss for college crowd

REVIEW BY KATIE ZABROCKI
STAFF WRITER

Do you realize that the distance from UNO to Village Pointe (168th and Dodge Streets) and back is nearly 200 blocks? I made the trek out west to check out Firebirds Rocky Mountain Grill and I opted to try them for lunch when I had some free time. Omaha is the restaurant chain's 10th location in the country.

I didn't have a lot of time to track down a lunch date so I arrived at Firebirds around 12:30 p.m. and asked for a table for one. After a moment's hesitation, to my amusement, the host led me to a four-person table and quickly cleared the other three sets of silverware.

While waiting for my server to take my drink order, I looked around the interior. There's a bar directly to your left when you come in and a large fireplace (with an actual burning fire) toward the back. The dining area takes up the entire right side. The décor is definitely aimed to be "lodge-like," but with a modern flair. There is not much legitimately rustic about Firebirds. The lunch crowd was mostly made up of middle-aged professionals.

I skimmed the menu for a few minutes. There were a couple of intriguing salmon lunch entrees and a variety of salads, as well as an entire page devoted to steaks and prime rib.

I settled on Cilantro Chicken and decide to pass on the soup of the day or a salad to start. They brought out a loaf of bread and my chicken came out without much of a wait (people had begun clearing out by now). The presentation of the food was very appealing. The chicken breast was propped up against a large pile of mashed potatoes served next to a cheese sauce and topped with two large onion rings.

The meal was less than spectacular. I tried the potatoes first because I'm in

love with mashed potatoes. They were a bit disappointing. There were bits of skins so I knew they were real, but they had a heavy and dry consistency. I can't really say that they were going down smooth, so I switched to the chicken. Good thing they served the entrée with a large, sharp knife because I'd have been hard pressed to cut it otherwise. I was hungry though, so I finished part of the potatoes and all of the chicken (I don't touch onion rings). If there was a theme of the meal it would be that it was a bit on the dry side and a touch bland. It didn't help that it took my server *forever* to refill my iced tea.

I was asked if I would like dessert, so I ordered the Big Daddy Chocolate Cake. I figured I'd give them a chance to redeem themselves after the less-than-stellar lunch. The fact that the cake cost nearly \$7 should have been a tip-off. I'm served a piece of chocolate cake that one person seriously has no business eating alone. It's accompanied by a small cup of vanilla ice cream and raspberry syrup. I make a small dent and have to ask for a box. It's probably pretty good as far as chocolate cakes are concerned, but it is so rich that at this point that I'm not really enjoying it.

I ask for my check, and all together with tip I pay \$20. The menu was specifically a lunch menu and my guess is that dinner is even pricier. I took a peek at the drink menu and most were less than \$10 each, although on Mondays they do have half-price bottles of wine and happy hour Monday through Friday in the bar and patio areas.

Firebirds wasn't terrible by any means, but the combination of mediocre food for the price and location doesn't leave me eager to go there again. Firebird, 17415 Chicago St., is open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. You can also check out their menu at firebirdsrockymountaingrill.com.

Birth control alternative: NuvaRing gets doctor's approval

ERIKA BERG
STAFF WRITER

As a healthy college student, there are a million things to worry about each day. Did you take your vitamins and eat a balanced meal? Don't forget you need to exercise, clean your room and study for tests—and that doesn't even include managing your relationship life. The last thing you need to worry about is adding one more thing on your "to-do list," and that includes birth control.

When you decide to go on birth control, the normal thing to do is to start using the pill. But then you have to figure out whether you want normal or low-dose, or if you want to have your period every month or four times a year, and then there's the problem of side effects and having to take it at the *exact same time every day*. All that work for something that is only 92 to 99.7 percent effective, according to plannedparenthood.org.

Why not try something new? Like the NuvaRing, which Planned Parenthood cites as being 99.7 percent effective. It's not hard to use and you don't need to see your gynecologist for a special "fitting." Once prescribed, just insert a small, flexible ring that releases combined hormones to prevent your ovaries from releasing an egg. It also helps to thicken cervical and uterine tissues, which in turn hinders implantation of a fertilized egg. After three weeks, remove it and have a shorter, "less crampy" period and insert a new ring in a week.

Besides the fact that you can "insert it and forget it" for weeks at a time, you also receive various health benefits. According to nuvaring.com, NuvaRing can help reduce acne, iron deficiency anemia, excess

body hair and premenstrual symptoms like headaches, cramps and depression. Long-term benefits include reducing the risk of ovarian and endometrial cancers, pelvic inflammatory disease, ovarian cysts and osteoporosis. Also, when you want to eventually become pregnant, NuvaRing has shown no signs of delaying pregnancy once it's discontinued.

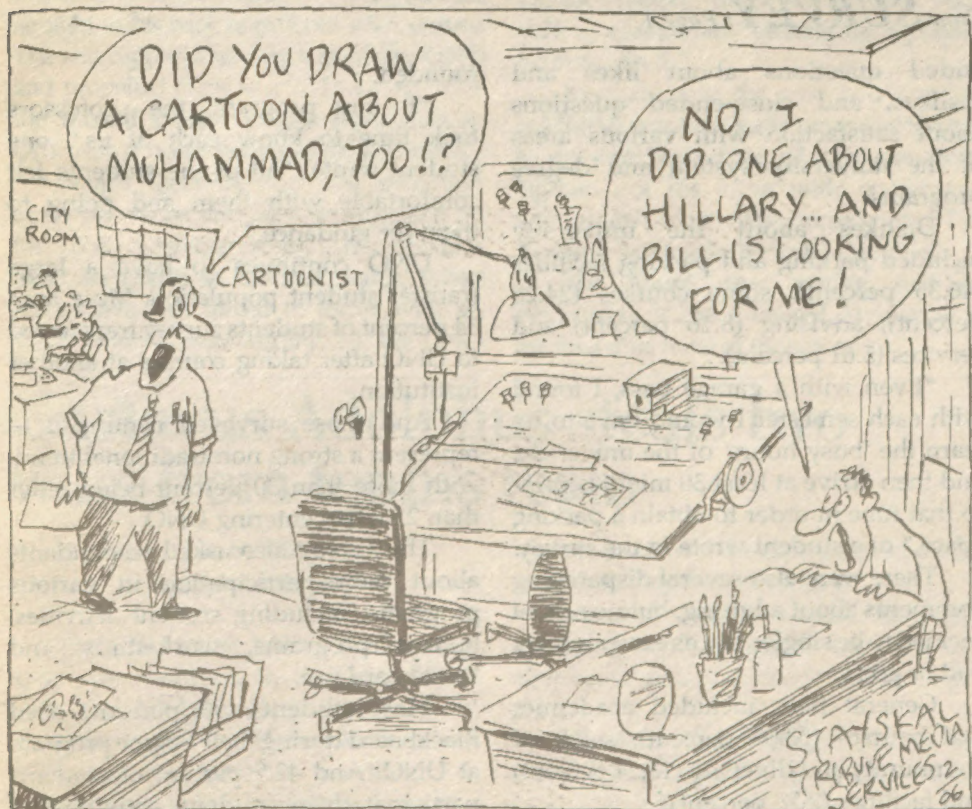
"Most of the female patients I see often ask for an alternative to the pill because they're worried that they'll forget to take it—and if they do, then they're paranoid for the rest of the month," says Kim Etherington, physician assistant at Kossuth Regional Health Center. "I offer them the patch and they're worried it'll wash off, then I explain about NuvaRing and they can't think of any reasonable thing to worry about."

Some disadvantages to consider with NuvaRing is that it can cause slight breast tenderness and irregular bleeding until your body adjusts to the hormones, said Etherington. As with all hormonal birth control methods, it does not protect against STDs, only abstinence can do that.

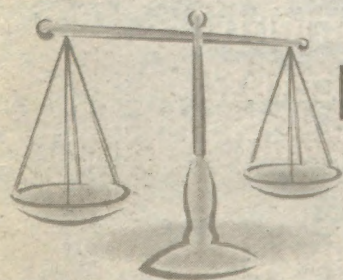
"A majority of my patients that try NuvaRing love it," Etherington says. "Just make sure to schedule an exam with your doctor and the two of you can discuss the best option for you and your lifestyle. It's just important to always use a form of birth control whether you are, or are considering becoming, sexually active."

The NuvaRing costs \$20-35 a month, depending on your health insurance or whether you buy it from a clinic or drugstore.

For more information, log onto nuvaring.com or visit Planned Parenthood to schedule an exam or consultation for the NuvaRing.



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Dating: Can't get no satisfaction

COMMENTARY BY KATIE ZABROCKI
STAFF WRITER

I don't know anything about love, except everyone always wants to sing about it. Apparently it's a really relatable topic, but I've never been in love. Therefore, I am completely unqualified to opine on that subject *but* I do have my two cents worth (maybe a whole dollar) of tongue-in-cheek commentary on "dating."

In my experience, the simple idea of dating is infinitely more complicated. We are all scared of commitment, and it shows in the way we talk.

It's funny, the relationship lingo. There's a hierarchy of vernacular that provides insight into your commitment status.

In the beginning you're "seeing each other." There's no physical contact or interaction ...only looking. Next is "talking," where you are not only able to see the other person, but there's also exchange of words. "Talking" is followed closely by "hanging out." Interaction is paired with close proximity, which leads us to "going out." That's right, you guessed it...it's like "hanging out" but in public, then the label of "dating" soon follows.

This was all made up for the "What are we?" conversation. This is a conversation usually initiated by the female because she has 10 girls asking her what the hell is going on with her and so and so. The older I get, the more stereotypical dating seems, and there's nothing I hate more than being a stereotypical girl.

Boy: "I'll call you tomorrow."

Girl: "Okay, talk to you then!"

Three days later...

Girl to Friend: "He said he'd call and it's been three days and he hasn't! Why hasn't he called! I've sent him a text, left voicemails and even wrote on his wall on Facebook!"

Friend: "Maybe you shouldn't have slept with him..."

I'd like to think that I'm fairly savvy and know a line when I hear one. But guys, you're always coming up with new ones. The thing is, the sincerity and seriousness in the delivery make me want to believe you, and I sometimes do. Dating is all about tricking the other person. We're all manipulators. It's a power struggle but I'm constantly perplexed as to what the prize is if you win. I find myself becoming

calculating, plotting my next move. I suppose what it comes down to is making yourself seem like the person you think this other person wants.

My particular position is that I love the chase. It might not even be as much about the actual person as it is about the idea of not being able to have them. I will work my manipulating butt off to get someone into my clutches. Then some switch is flipped, it never fails, and they are automatically less attractive. So I stop working my charm and then they, who were won over by my active pursuit, begin to lose interest. Damn, now I want them again and I usually have developed an actual fondness for them. It's a vicious, vicious cycle.

I'm beginning to think I don't want a relationship, I want a fight. Someone to be a formidable opponent to match wits with me. I suppose that doesn't have to come with the paralyzing insecurity that I've come to associate with any sort of pseudo-relationship though. Okay, that's maybe a little melodramatic. I'm generally impressed with my ability to keep cool, except for the occasional breakdown, preferably not in a public place. Nothing drives me crazier than that (highly visible), needy, jealous girl, but I have this fear...Am I a closet needy, jealous girl? Yes? NOOOOOOO!!!! I don't know; I don't want to think about it. All I know is that I'm sick of this war, boys vs. girls. What I'm trying to say is let's shed the stereotypes and all this "Sex and the City" business. I loved "the game", but I've had too much—it's made me sick, so now I'm swearing it off.

At this point, I've been single for long enough and survived. I have a pretty good idea of who I am as an individual and I want someone to compliment, not complete me. I'm a whole person already, thank you very much.

Valentine's Day: The corporate industry

COMMENTARY BY ROLISHA DAVIS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Valentine's Day is a day dedicated to love. The world is painted red and pink and it's a time to show someone how much you care. It gives you an opportunity to take one day out of your busy life and acknowledge your love to that special person. And lovers all over the world are glad...they are not alone.

Who cares?

What about us single folks who are alone? We sit around watching everyone shop for flowers, candy and cards, hoping just to get a balloon that says "I Love You." We see the big white teddy bears painted with red hearts. We are bombarded with jewelry commercials telling us diamonds are a girl's best friend. We overhear plans for the movies or a night on the town.

Valentine's Day is another commercial holiday, running neck and neck with Christmas.

Valentine's Day is another way for "Corporate America" to generate dollars at the common man's expense. A dozen roses at the beginning of the year can cost between \$15 and \$20. Around Valentines Day, they can be as high as \$50. Valentine's Day cards appear everywhere, even local gas stations.

Valentine's Day is pointless and overrated. We spend too much money on overpriced items.

Am I salty because I'm alone? Yes. Would I have a different opinion about Valentines Day if I weren't? Maybe, but the truth is I'm all alone.

What are the single people doing on Valentine's Day? Wishing he or she wasn't alone, cursing everyone who has a significant other.

This day is so important to most men that they wait until the last day to shop.

"Most of our customers are men shopping at the last minute," says an employee at a local Hallmark.

I suggest for the lonely people out there don't sit around and feel sorry for



yourselves. Go to a movie. Hey, buy yourself a diamond. You don't need someone to buy you a gift to tell you they love you. Love yourself! You don't need a box of chocolates to help add to your cavities. You don't need flowers that are going to be dead by the end of the week.

Have yourself a happy Valentine's Day.

From **SURVEY**: Page 1

ended questions about likes and dislikes, and close-ended questions about satisfaction with various areas of the university system and degree programs.

Dislikes about the university included parking and parking facilities (46.35 percent), some courses (24.28 percent), advising (8.16 percent) and services (5.61 percent).

"Even with a garage pass, I found with each semester I would have to relearn the 'busy hours' of the university, and then arrive at least 30 minutes prior to that time in order to obtain a parking space," one student wrote in the survey.

There were also several disparaging comments about advising, but no school seemed to be singled out as exceptionally bad or good.

General likes included academics and courses (53.07 percent), sense of community and diversity (13.54 percent) and facilities (7.78 percent).

Several students cited class size as a plus, and said their professors were humorous, personal and well-

rounded.

"In my program, the professors took time to know each of us," one student wrote. "all of the students felt comfortable with them and going to them for guidance."

UNO continues to have a large transfer student population: More than 54 percent of students survey transferred to UNO after taking courses at another institution.

And those surveyed continued to represent a strong non-traditional trend, with more than 30 percent being older than 21 when entering UNO.

The survey also asked respondents about their participation in various programs, including student activities, honors programs, work-study and Blackboard use.

Most students, 93 percent, used Blackboard during their degree program at UNO. And 42.5 percent of students participated in student activities or organizations.

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Dan Hilario and the Mavs defeated Minnesota State-Mankato on Friday night to remain unbeaten in dual meets with a 9-0 record.

photo by J P Adair

Naig fires up home crowd with wild finish

JASON GLENN
STAFF WRITER

J.D. Naig went and saved the best for last. The last 15 seconds, to be precise.

With time running out and down 6-4 to No. 1 ranked Travis Krinkie, Naig brought the UNO faithful to its feet, reversing the Minnesota State-Mankato 174-pounder straight to his back to pull out a 9-6 victory. The win capped a six match streak for UNO and propelled them to a 22-12 victory over the second ranked purple Mavericks in UNO's only home dual meet of the season.

Naig's theatrics were the exception in an otherwise steadfast performance by the UNO wrestling team. After spotting MSU six points in the first match, when Jimmy Ball was forced to forfeit with an ankle sprain despite leading 2-1, the UNO

Mavericks went about their jobs with skill and efficiency.

Dan Hilario provided the night's second biggest thrill, fending off a takedown attempt in the last minute to beat Jeff Pfaffinger 6-5 in the 133-pound match. Mitch Waite and Shane Unger followed with convincing decisions at 141 and 149 respectively and Patrick Allibone used No. 3 Math Bitz's stalling against him, picking up a penalty point to win 3-2.

Mankato won the next two matches, but then it was time for big man Les Sigman to do what he's done all year—dominate. Sigman got his kicks with consecutive win number 66, a major decision over Tim Kraemer that made the final score 22-12.

The Mavs' next outing will be Wednesday at No. 6 ranked Augustana in the final dual meet of the season.

Gustavus Adolphus steals two wins from tennis team

LIZ SELZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The UNO tennis team tacked up two losses last weekend in St. Peter, Minn. Gustavus Adolphus beat the Mavs 7-2 on Friday night. The Mavericks then beat North Dakota Saturday morning 7-2, before losing to the host team Gustavus Adolphus once again 5-4 during the afternoon session.

The win Friday night came from junior Maggie Russell and sophomore Kylie Roe, defeating Laura Arnbeck and Jill Bailey in a doubles competition.

With the score tied, Kelsey Cochran beat out Erica Dobson in the No. 6 singles match, earning UNO's last point on the evening.

On Saturday, three Mavericks, senior Abby Wilson, junior Katie Schmidt and freshman Rachel Faulk, racked up a pair of victories in the singles competition.

The Mavs dominated the doubles matches against North Dakota, bringing them into the singles matches with a 3-0

lead. Four Mavericks claimed gold in the singles, sealing the 7-2 victory.

Gustavus Adolphus came out strong in the doubles matches on Saturday afternoon, taking a 2-1 lead into the singles matches.

The Mavs fought back hard in the singles. With Schmidt, Faulk and Wilson picking up wins, the score was tied 4-4. The ball was in Kylie Roe's court as she battled Alexandra Burleigh for the win in the final match. Roe came up short in a close 6-4, 6-1 loss, and Gustavus Adolphus claimed their second win over the Mavericks.

UNO will return to Hanscom Park Friday night to host Graceland University at 6:30 p.m.

Hockey takes second road sweep, ties for No. 4 in conference

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO hockey team picked up its first ever road sweep against Northern Michigan this weekend with a 2-1 victory Friday and an 8-3 blowout Saturday. The wins stretched the Mavericks' unbeaten streak to seven games, with their last loss on Jan. 20 against Michigan State. The sweep also lifts the Mavs into a tie with Alaska-Fairbanks for fourth place in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association.

In the first win on the Wildcats' home ice since March 12, 2000, Brandon Scero gave the Mavericks a 1-0 lead on a wrist shot from between the circles five minutes and 28 seconds into Friday's game. Scott Parse added a goal with 1:43 left in the period on a power play rebound to pick up the game winner.

Nathan Sigmund picked up the only goal of the night for Northern Michigan 6:04 into the second period. Both teams played a hard fight third period, but UNO's Jerad Kaufmann and NMU's Bill Zaniboni were each walls in front of their respective goals.

It only took the Mavericks 14 minutes to build a 4-0 lead in Saturday's game. Parse, Phil Angell, Jason Krischuk and Mick Lawrence all scored goals in the opening period.

Bryan Marshall extended the lead to 5-0 2:13 into the second stanza. NMU's Nathan Oystrick finally got the Wildcats on the board with a powerplay goal two minutes later.



photo by Michelle Bishop

Bryan Marshall added a goal and two assists during Saturday's 8-3 win at Northern Michigan.

NMU pulled within three when Andrew Contois scored 58 seconds into the third period. Scero answered with his second goal of the weekend at 2:27 to give the Mavs a 6-2 lead.

John Miller scored one last goal for the Wildcats at 8:25 of the final period but UNO crushed whatever hopes NMU had at a comeback with Krischuk's second goal of the night with 3:40 left on the clock. Adam Bartholomay picked up an empty netter with less than two minutes remaining to close out scoring for the game.

Saturday was the third time this season that the Mavericks have scored eight goals in a game, which ties the school record. Parse's two goals moved his national leading point total to 54.

UNO will return to the Qwest Center for a two-game series with Michigan Friday and Saturday night. It will be the last home series of the regular season for the Mavericks.

Women's basketball returns from Minnesota empty-handed

LIZ SELZER
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It was a long, cold bus ride home from Minnesota for the UNO women's basketball team after a disappointing 0-2 weekend. The Mavericks faced a top 10 competitor for the fourth time this season when they played

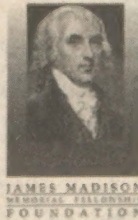
St. Cloud State on Thursday night, but fell short in a 53-78 loss. Then the Mavs hopped over to Mankato to take on Minnesota State Saturday, but saw the game slip away during the last three minutes.

The losses drop UNO to a 16-10 record on the season, and 2-7 in the NCC. With only two games left in the regular season, the Mavericks' chance

on postseason play is slipping away.

To start the game against SCSU, JJ Smith drilled a three-pointer, which gave UNO its only lead of the game 3-2. The Mavericks were holding their own during the first six minutes, until Krystal Scott of St. Cloud hit a

See WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Page 8



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Men's Basketball continues slide

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO men's basketball team dropped two games in Minnesota last weekend. Thursday night North Central Conference leader St. Cloud State dropped the Mavericks 83-64, then No. 22 Minnesota State-Mankato breezed past UNO 85-57 Saturday.

Friday night, the Mavericks came from a five-point deficit to take a 23-22 lead with under six minutes left to play in the first half on Michael Jenkins back-to-back threes, but the Huskies reclaimed the lead when David Dreas connected for eight straight points. SCSU took a 37-31 lead into the locker room at the half.

The Huskies scored the first four points of the second half and built a 56-41 lead with 14 minutes and 26 seconds left in the game. The Mavericks made a seven-point run with 13 minutes left, but SCSU coach Kevin Schlagel called a timeout.

The Huskies came out of the reprieve with a three-pointer and a

jumper 21 seconds later to extend the lead to double digits. It would not get closer for the rest of the game.

The Mavericks played a tough first half against Minnesota State Saturday night, trailing 12-10 after seven minutes of play, but then Jake Morrow scored five straight points for MSU. The Mavericks went scoreless for nearly five minutes while MSU built a nine-point lead.

Quantel Murphy broke the scoring drought when he made a layup with 4:47 left in the half, cutting the MSU lead to 26-18. MSU recovered and took a 39-25 lead into the half.

MSU opened up the second half with 12 unanswered points building a 51-25 cushion. From that point on MSU used 59 percent shooting to keep the Mavericks at bay and walk away with the win.

The loss drops UNO to 13-14 overall and 7-2 in the NCC.

The Mavericks return to action Saturday when they travel to Minnesota-Duluth for a 3 p.m. showdown.

Baseball takes down No. 15 Mesa State and No.1 Central Missouri

NATHAN LEETE
SPORTS EDITOR

The UNO baseball team traveled to Las Vegas to take on three NCAA Division II Top 15 teams last weekend. Friday the Mavericks lost to No. 9 Chico State, but rallied to beat No. 15 Mesa State 1-0 on Saturday and No. 1 Central Missouri State 12-11 on Sunday.

The Mavericks stranded eight runners on base and were held to six singles in Friday's loss to Chico State.

Saturday freshman Tyler Cloyd threw six innings allowing just one hit to carry the Mavericks to a 1-0 victory



Chad Leon

over Mesa State. Cloyd picked up six strikeouts in his first showing on the mound. The Mavericks' run came in the first inning when Chad Leon got on base with a double, and Brian Frew brought him home with an RBI single.

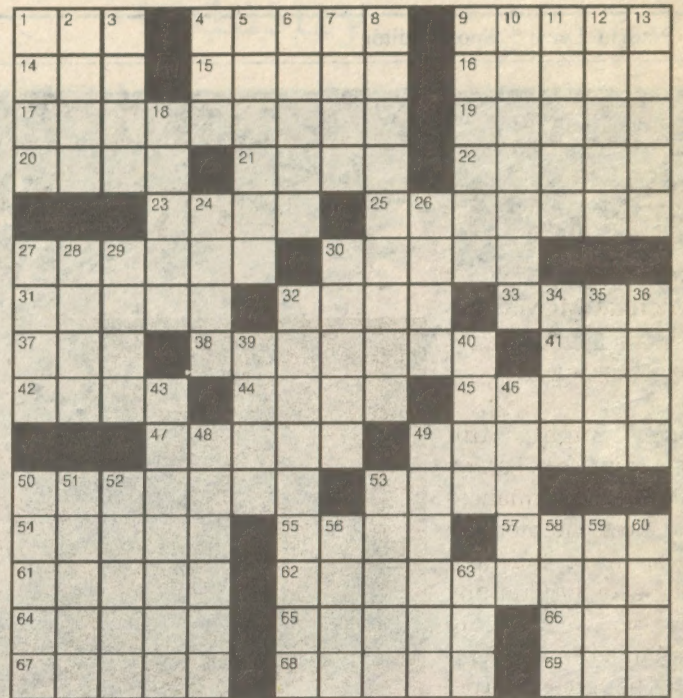
Sunday, the Mavs faced the top team in the country, CMSU. The Mavericks scored two insurance runs in the top of the ninth inning and then held off a Mules rally in the bottom of the ninth to pick up the 12-11

win. The Mavericks are now 5-2 on the season. They will resume play on Feb. 28 with a double-header against Missouri Western in St. Joseph, Mo.

Crossword

- ACROSS
- June honoree
 - G-sharp
 - Rigging supports
 - Regard with regret
 - "Mule Train" singer Frankie
 - Serenity
 - Wild, white canine
 - Excessive
 - Type of shark
 - Sicilian volcano
 - Vacuous
 - Pitcher Tiant
 - Herb of early TV
 - Mean-spirited to the max
 - Dutch painter
 - Make happy
 - Complaint
 - Rounded lump
 - Small batteries
 - Turns down
 - Exist
 - Osculate
 - Future jr.
 - Operatic Mario
 - Shapely fruits
 - Continue
 - Baseball blow
 - Plum variety
 - Bellowing
 - Pugilist Max
 - Current craze
 - Prefix with economics
 - Gilbert and Sullivan shows
 - Old anesthetic
 - Extend a subscription
 - Broom's cousin
 - Heads up
 - B+ or A-
 - Shifty

- DOWN
- Whiskey shot
 - Distinctive air
 - 52 cards
 - "Sting like a bee" boxer
 - "Deal with the truth..."
 - Cheers up
 - Shortly
 - Lubbock sch.
 - Gallant escort
 - Given to plays on words
 - Actor Quinn
 - Meet with fellow alumni
 - Bulldogger's beast
 - "Rent me" sign
 - Operator
 - Test for weight
 - Bird's bill
 - Jai
 - Sauciness
 - Trickles (through)
 - 1970s Wimbledon star
 - Daily Planet reporter
 - Rice-shaped pasta
 - Conk on the noggin
 - Genesis twin
 - Trudge
 - Pierced
 - Deflect
 - Oversights



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From WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: Page 7

jumper and gave the Huskies an 11 point lead. With 4:08 left in the half, the Huskies took the largest lead of the half with 27 points before stealing a 49-26 halftime lead.

The frustrated Mavs came out in the second half hoping to close in on the fifth-ranked team in the nation, but they were stone cold. Toni Kinsey was the first Maverick to score a point in the second half when she hit two free throws with 16:13 on the clock. Lacey Geitzenhauer stopped an 8-0 run by the Huskies by hitting a jumper, which brought the score to 56-35.

The Huskies then took the home court advantage into effect, when they went on a 22-4 run to seal the deal.

Geitzenhauer led the Mavericks with 11 points. LaCheryl Prince put up 10 points and pulled down a team-high eight rebounds. JJ Smith dished out nine points, increasing her career total to 1,221. SCSU finished the game shooting 49.2 percent from the field to UNO's 32.3 percent.

The Mavericks were looking to regroup from Thursday's loss in the Taylor Center Saturday afternoon, and came out ready to attack. Geitzenhauer was the first to score with a lay-up in the first two minutes of play. The intensity was thick as the two teams fought for the lead. There were a total of four lead changes in the first half, before the Mavs snuck in a pair of free throws with 45 seconds to play, which gave them a 30-29 lead.

The teams came out fighting for every point, with five lead changes in the first six minutes of the second half. At 9:48 in the half, Ashley Freerksen drilled a three-pointer, giving the Mavs a 53-42 lead. MSU started to fight back, tying the game with 4:33 to play. Heather Peterson of MSU hit one from behind the arc with 2:12 remaining, which gave them a 66-63 lead. The game quickly turned into a foul frenzy and Mankato came out on top with a 10-4 run in the last two minutes taking the 76-67 victory.

The Mavs will be in action Thursday in Duluth, and will return home to close out the regular season with two home games against Minnesota Duluth on Thursday, Feb. 23 and Mankato on Saturday, Feb. 25. Both games start at 6 p.m. in the Sapp Fieldhouse.

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2006 Grammy Awards mostly predictable

MICHAEL McMANUS
ASSISTANT ENTERTAINMENT/
FEATURES EDITOR

A night full of surprises, stars, chilling performances and less memorable ones, made the 48th staging of the Grammy Awards a night to remember.

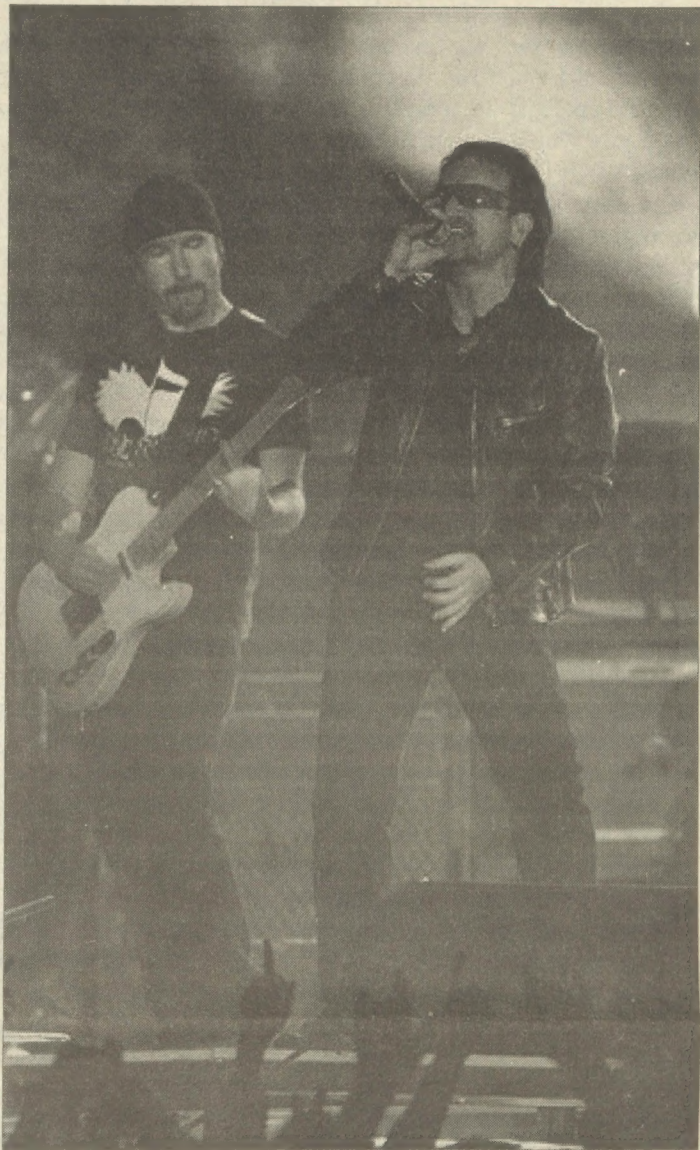
The green carpet was rolled out in-front of the Staples Center in Los Angeles, and every well known music celebrity was in attendance.

At this year's Grammy Awards U2, Mariah Carey and Kelly Clarkson were a few of the lucky performers who were not only nominated, but also dominated the 2006 Grammy Awards.

The night started off with a bang, as usual. The opening act was an animated Gorillaz, performing their hit "Feel Good Inc." They were later joined by Madonna, performing her recent hit "Hung Up." The performance rang of sex, and had the audience screaming for more.

The first award of the night was for the best pop female vocal performance. Gwen Stefani, Kelly Clarkson, Mariah Carey, Bonnie Raitt and Sheryl Crow were the nominees. The winner was Kelly Clarkson for her hit single "Since U Been Gone." Pretty predictable, considering this song is still dominating the music charts worldwide. Clarkson also took home a Grammy for best pop vocal album with *Breakaway*, beating out Paul McCartney, Fionna Apple, Stefani and Sheryl Crow. Clarkson later went on to perform a heart-felt and emotional version of "Because of You."

A surprising win was the best pop male vocal performance by Stevie Wonder with his song "From the Bottom of my Heart," beating out the favored



U2 took five Grammy awards, including song of the year and album of the year.

Rob Thomas for "Lonely No More." Also in the pop category was "This Love" by Maroon 5, which took home the best pop performance by a duo or group with vocals, and the Gorillaz featuring De La Soul who were awarded the best pop collaboration with vocals for "Feel Good Inc."

Best country album was awarded to Alison Krauss and Union Station for their album *Lonely Runs Both Ways*, which was also a surprise considering they were up against Faith Hill, Gretchen Wilson and Trisha Yearwood. Krauss also took home the Grammy for best country performance by a duo or group with the song "Restless." Best female country vocal performance was given to the underdog Emmylou Harris for "The Connection," and a very predictable best male country vocal performance was

See GRAMMY'S: Page 11

Avenged Sevenfold brings "Fear and Loathing" to Omaha

CHARLEY REED
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

"No. We can't stop here. This is bat country." Those immortal lines from the movie *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* were no doubt in the minds of every car passing the sold-out Sokol Auditorium on Friday as Omaha became the latest city to host these bands: The Confession, Bullets and Octane, CKY, and of course, Avenged Sevenfold, as part of the nation-wide "Cities of Evil" tour. Of course, headliner Avenged Sevenfold is famous for their hit single, "Bat Country," inspired by the 1996 film.

It was obvious that the fans that came out were really dedicated; they had to be to stand out in freezing temperatures until most of the crowd was finally let in for the 8 p.m. show. Fans, like myself, who did not get in on time missed the first band, The Confession. Those same fans however, were on time to see Bullets and Octane, a heavy metal band out of St. Louis.

Bullets and Octane was a great primer for the two headlining acts, dishing out fast paced tracks like "Going Blind" and "My Disease," even giving the crowd a chance for some free demo CDs. Lead singer Gene Lewis was certainly well dressed for the occasion, wearing a skin-tight black shirt, hip-hugger jeans, and a black and white striped tie for a belt, making him look like the love child of Alice Cooper and Scott Weiland.

Bullets and Octane's performance was no match for the crowd's desire to see Pennsylvania-based band CKY. The band has had an increase in popularity due to the

MTV shows "Jackass" and "Viva la Bam," which star Bam Margera, brother of the band's drummer, Jess Margera. The crowd was amazing in showing their support, not even waiting for Bullets and Octane to get off stage before forcefully chanting "C-K-Y."

That chant would become a staple of the next thirty minutes, and was shouted by the crowd to combat clips of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You" and Cher's "Believe," used to goad the fans into pushing the decibel level. CKY played a balance of songs from its two previous releases, *Volume 1* and *Infiltrate. Destroy. Rebuild*, as well as their latest release, *An Answer Can Be Found*.

It was interesting to hear CKY live, because every song seemed to have a head-banging solo to it, and the band screamed out almost all of its lyrics. This loud-rock mode was quite a bit different from the band's album recordings which have a much lighter punk rock feel. It was actually quite enjoyable to see a harder side of CKY because it helped the fans transition easily to the headliner, Avenged Sevenfold.

The set up time between CKY and Avenged Sevenfold was one of the most exciting Sokol has probably ever had because during the down time. All of the equipment for the previous bands was torn down and replaced with something fit for a show in a much larger venue. The new set was complete with strobe lights, interchangeable back drops, fog machines, and one hell of a cool drum set.

Getting the loudest of the cheers of the night, Huntington Beach's Avenged Sevenfold hit the stage and opened fast with "Second Heartbeat," and then two from the

See AVENGED SEVENFOLD: Page 11

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Dove says you're beautiful, I agree

Last weekend, millions of Super Bowl viewers may have seen a new TV ad produced by Dove to promote its new "Campaign For Real Beauty."

The ad begins by flashing through images of young, pre-teen girls accompanied by matching subtitles. "Hates her freckles," next to a little red-haired girl. "Thinks she's ugly," next to another. "Wishes she were blonde." "Afraid she's fat."

And then, as the commercial climaxes, "Let's change their minds—because every girl deserves to feel good about herself."

As I watched this commercial, I couldn't help a small grin from emerging on my face. It wasn't that it was necessarily that poignant, or even tried to pull those heartstrings. I grinned because I was happy that someone—even if it is a beauty products company—is actually doing something to promote self-esteem among children.

In doing a little more research, I discovered that this ad for Dove's "Self-Esteem Fund" ties into the even bigger "Campaign For Real Beauty" that Dove launched to promote its 50th anniversary.

In addition to this commercial, the beauty company is also taking a unique—and what some might see as risky—approach to its marketing, featuring non-models on its Web site and other advertising mediums.

For example, a section of its Web site poses the question, "What do you think?" Below the question are two women, one elderly and the other of larger proportion. "Gray or gorgeous?" is asked about the elderly woman, and "Oversized or outstanding?" asked about the larger. Both women are presented in a dignified and attractive manner.

Is Dove trying to earn brownie points during a time when the public is becoming more aware of the media's negative and misrepresentative portrayal of women, or is the company really rebelling against the current standard of beauty, representing a true bastion of hope and refuge?

Who knows? I don't know enough about the company's history, nor am I the type of guy who would typically be writing a column of this topic (having easily devoted thousands of hours to pornography in the last decade of my life). But I'm glad

Manic Digression



Josh Bashara

they're doing it. I'm just glad someone is.

I dealt with a boatload of self-esteem issues as a child. I was overweight, unpopular and hated everything about myself. Back then, I would have given anything just to be someone else...to be one of the "cool" kids who weren't fat, who had designer clothes and who didn't have an acne problem.

I was no stranger to self-disgust. Perhaps it's easier

for us who have hated ourselves to see the problems that our future generations face. It's easier to relate to what these kids go through—often on a daily basis—and know what it feels like to wish that we were anyone else but ourselves.

In a poll conducted by Dove, only 2 percent of thousands of women in 10 different countries considered themselves as beautiful. That means only 2 percent of the women polled—which I'm willing to bet represents the majority of women—can really, honestly tell themselves that yes, they are beautiful.

Mark my words, ladies: You're wrong. If only 2 percent of the women on earth are beautiful, then my head wouldn't be turning as if on a swivel dozens of times per day. In fact, it'd be such a rare occurrence to see an attractive girl—two out of 100—that we'd probably see a 1,000 percent increase in auto accidents from all the men rubbernecking on the streets at the oh-so-rare occasion of seeing one.

I can't bring myself to say that every woman is beautiful in her own way. Not only because it's cliché, but because you probably wouldn't buy it anyway. But I can tell you this: A lot more than 2 percent of you are beautiful, that's for damn sure.

And as for the majority of you women who actually think you're ugly: You're not. And no, I'm not just saying that to be nice. I can guarantee you—without a doubt in my mind—that everyone else, men included, see you as a lot more attractive than you think you really are.

My hat's off to you, Dove. Although in reality, you could be no more altruistic than Donald Trump, at least you're making an effort. You just may change the way a few little girls think about themselves. And for that, anyone deserves a thumbs-up.

Taking stock in lessons learned

Since the start of the semester, I've been living something of a double life. I've been a journalism student and a stock trader at the same time. However, the stock trader bit has only been a game, and the money I've traded with doesn't really exist.

Before the semester started, I was stumbling around Foxnews.com when I found the "Cashin' In Challenge." I was curious, so I wanted to know what it was about. As it turned out, it was a virtual trading game where you went up against four of the hosts from Fox News' "Cashin' In" show, and with a possibility of winning something. It was free to sign up and I'd get \$10,000 to start. Because real money is involved, I thought, "Time to unleash my inner stock trader."

But over the past few weeks that I've been taking part in this game, I've learned a few lessons that actually apply to the real world. And I think they're good lessons. They've been learned at a cost of \$1,621.89 of fictional money, and the owning and selling of shares from such companies as Apple Computer, ExxonMobil, Halliburton, Pixar Animation, McDonalds, News Corporation, Intel Corporation and Microsoft.

First lesson: Even if you're down, you're not out (yet).

I've lost a lot from my initial \$10,000 starting account. And I could've given up at any time. But I'm still hanging in there, because I've still got a little over \$8,000 left, and as long as I still have funds that can be invested, the game isn't over yet.

The only real time you lose is when you give up. Comebacks aren't something that we only see in the movies. The right choices, a little perseverance and most importantly hope are perhaps the key components that can turn things around when you really need them to.

Second lesson: There's nothing wrong with seeking advice.

Just after the previous incident, I was down about \$1,400 from my initial \$10,000. I was lost. My initial five selections didn't work, and my luck in picking shares was turning against me. But I remembered seeing this show on CNBC called "Mad Money with Jim Cramer." He was jumping around like a wild man, and for a second, I

As Far As I'm Concerned



Matthew Lytle

thought he was crazy. But I decided to give him a chance, and I watched an episode of his show. After taking notes, laughing and having a good time, I had picked five shares from his recommendations. Four of them I never heard of, but I figured, "What have I got to lose?"

At the close of the next day, I checked the five new stocks, and was pleasantly surprised. All five of them gained. Though some were

small gains, making back a small portion of the \$15 commission I had to pay on each, there was one that made the \$15 back and a little more. Sometimes, you're not going to have all of the answers. But someone else usually does. Seeking advice isn't weakness, it's one of the best things anyone can have.

Third lesson: Your decisions, your responsibility.

Even though the money in this game is fake, I've felt as if the money is real, and my decisions on where to invest and when to trade determine whether I'll gain more money or lose some of it. And even though the market, world events and many other factors affect the prices across the board, decisions still have their consequences. Losing \$1,621.89 is the consequence of making a couple of bad calls, jockeying for a better price on a certain stock and not holding on.

Every choice has a consequence. I could've blamed the market for my losses, but at the end of the day, I was responsible for deciding when to buy, when to sell, how long to hold on to a stock and where to set stop-loss orders, an amount that triggers the selling of a stock once its price falls below it.

Neil Cavuto, Fox News' chief business correspondent, said in a recent edition of his "Common Sense" editorial that it's human nature to blame someone else, but it's apparently not human nature to say, "Ok, I admit it. I screwed up." People who take responsibility are often better people than those who shove the blame elsewhere.

The stock market can be considered legal gambling. You place bets by investing in stock you think will perform well on the trading floor, and you either win or you lose. But whether you win or lose, you can still learn some important lessons from playing a game.



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From **GRAMMY'S**: Page 9

awarded to the deserving Keith Urban for "You'll Think Of Me." Finally, in the country category, "God Bless the Broken Road," took home the honor of being the best country song of the year.

In the rock category, U2 seemed to steal the show with three wins for best rock album, best rock song and best rock performance by a duo or group with vocals. Other winners included Bruce Springsteen with "Devils and Dust" winning best solo rock vocal performance, System Of a Down for best hard rock performance and Slipknot's "Before I Forget" for best metal performance.

The leading lady of R&B, Mariah Carey, left without disappointment after taking home best female vocal performance for "We Belong Together," best R&B song for "We Belong Together" and best contemporary R&B album with *The Emancipation of Mimi*. John Legend also took home his fair share of the R&B category with best R&B album *Get Lifted* and best male R&B vocal performance with "Ordinary People." Legend caught many by surprise after beating names such as Usher, Jamie Foxx, Mario and Stevie Wonder, but he later proved his talent by singing a breathtaking performance of "Ordinary People," bringing the entire audience to its feet. Finally in the R&B category was the best R&B performance by a duo or group with vocals. With an unimpressive and mostly unheard of list of songs, Beyonce and Stevie Wonder took the category with their song "So Amazing."

After receiving three more Grammy awards in the rap category, Kanye can finally stop complaining about his upset last year. West took home best rap album for *Late Registration*, best rap song for "Diamonds from Sierra Leone" and best rap solo performance for "Gold Digger." Kanye beat out 50 Cent, Eminem and even Ludacris in

many of these categories, making him a staple in the rap genre. As predicted, The Black Eyed Peas were awarded best rap performance by a duo or group for "Don't Phunk With My Heart," and best rap/sung collaboration was given to Jay-Z featuring Linkin Park for "Numb/Encore."

Other awards included best record of the year given to Green Day for "Boulevard of Broken Dreams," best short music video awarded to Missy Elliot for "Lose Control," and best comedy album given to Chris Rock for *Never Scared*.

The night was not only filled with awards, but also with breathtaking and less memorable performances.

Some of the highlights were John Legend's piano version of "Ordinary People," and Mary J. Blige and

U2's team-up of "One Love." Both songs received standing ovations and sent chills through the viewers. Kelly Clarkson's version of "Because Of You," is also worth mentioning, but nothing came close to the R&B diva herself, Mariah Carey. Carey sang her hit song "We Belong Together" with ease and power.

Although the majority of the performances were enjoyable, we can't give them all this credit. Coldplay gave a mediocre performance sounding much like every other song they ever perform and Sugarland sang their hit "Gotta Be Something More," leaving everyone asking for just that.

Overall, the 48th Grammy awards were pretty predictable. There were a few exceptions in every category, but nothing really out of the ordinary. With recent releases such as *The Breakthrough* by Mary J. Blige, *Some Hearts*, by Carrie Underwood and *Unpredictable* from Jamie Foxx, we obviously have a lot to look forward to for the 49th Grammy Awards in 2007.

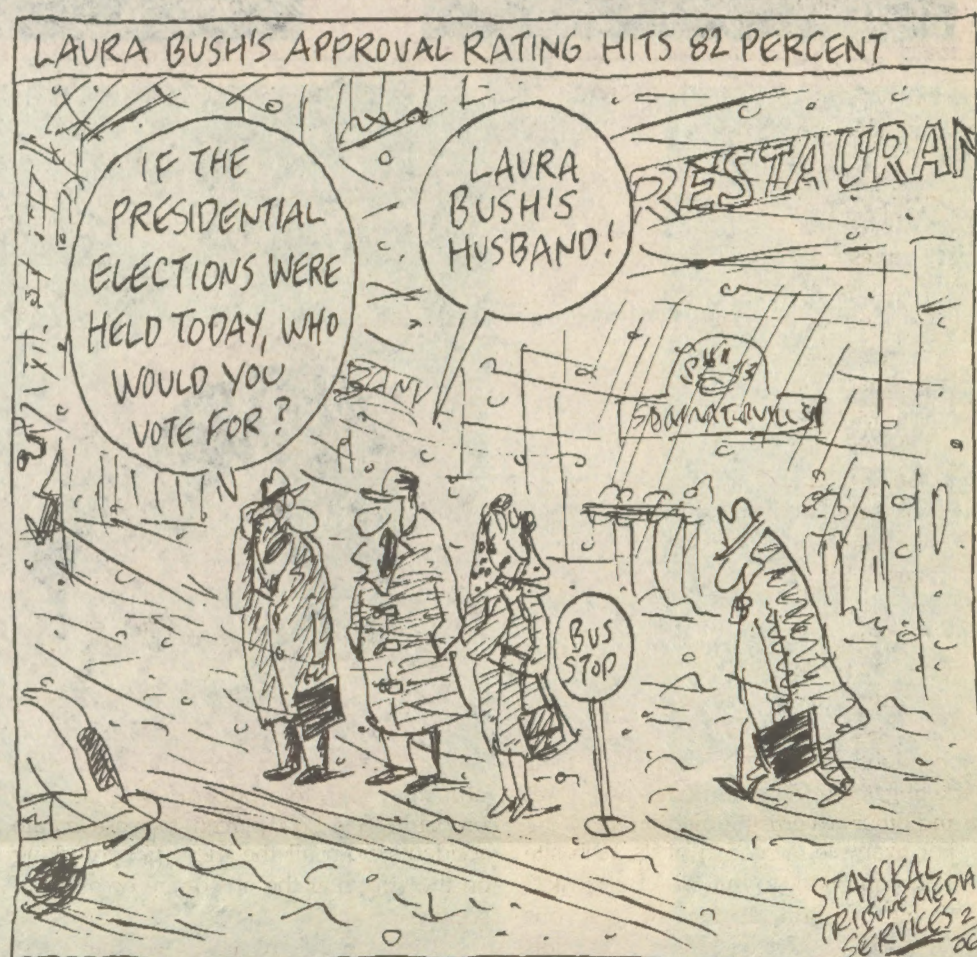
From **AVENGED SEVENFOLD**: Page 9

band's latest release, *City of Evil*: "Beast and the Harlot," and "Burn It Down." Next came a pair of fan favorites with "Chapter Four" and "The Wicked End," the former being one off the band's 2003 release *Waking the Fallen*.

The huge set-up created the sense of a premiere performance. The crowd embraced it by creating huge mosh pits in the center of the floor, head-banging up in the balcony and even holding up lighters and cell phones as the band played its ballad "M.I.A." and a slowed down version of its 2004 hit "Unholy Confessions" before leaving the stage. With the crowd chanting once again, this time a roaring cheer of "Se-ven-fold," the

band came back on for an encore, complete with a new backdrop and a fist-pumping rendition of "Strength of the World" and then finishing with the band's biggest hit to date, "Bat Country," the song that forever tied the band to *Fear and Loathing*. The song brought the crowd to its feet to give the band a proper send off.

Much more could be said about the show that Avenged Sevenfold brought to the metro, but Johnny Depp's character in the before-mentioned movie could probably sum it best: "The possibility of physical and mental collapse is now very real. No sympathy for the Devil, keep that in mind. Buy the ticket, take the ride."



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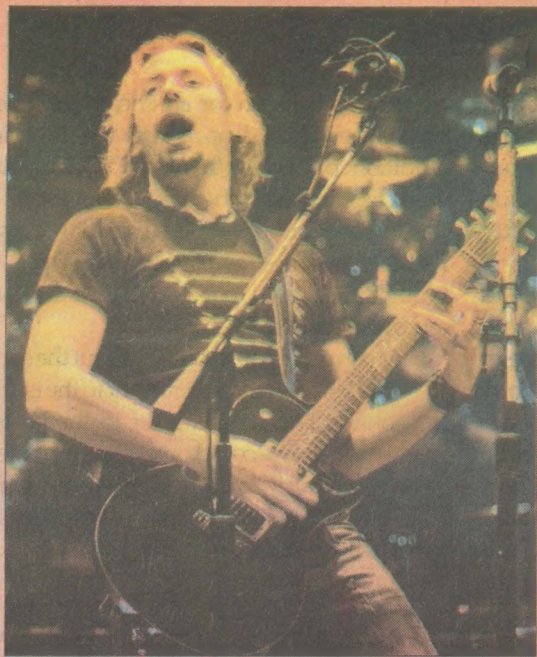
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Look at these photographs: Nickelback at the Qwest



Nickelback rocked the Qwest Center on Friday night with songs from their new album *All the Right Reasons*. Chad Kroeger (left) and Ryan Peake (center) bring the crowd to their feet. Chad Kroeger (left) performs the band's new song "Photograph."

photos by Michelle Bishop



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